



From the Pastor's Desk...

APRIL 2016

Dear Cup family and friends,

One of the things I appreciate most about the Christian life is that we will never 'fully arrive' until we are face to face with our Savior and Redeemer, Jesus. We will not know everything here. We will not experience everything here. We will not be perfectly loving here, for we are not yet 'perfect' creations – but we are 'on the way' toward all of these things when we walk in the step with the Holy Spirit in love (1 Corinthians 13:11-13).

God is well aware that we are all works in progress, and he is able to meet each one of us at our point of need – perfectly. The band Caedmon's Call puts it this way:

*You are to me
A beautiful mystery
You are to me
A servant and a king
You're a beautiful mystery*

*The truth is a river
Where the strong can swim down deep
The weak and the broken
Can walk across so easily*

In short, the Christian life is a life of continual growth and development. An area that God is currently at work on in me is my life of prayer. Paul Miller's *A Praying Life: Connecting with God in a Distracting World*, which we are using in our adult Sunday morning group, has been a gold mine of practical tips on coming to the Lord with the things on my heart and mind. I particularly appreciate the diagrams he uses to demonstrate the praying experience, and some of the temptations and difficulties we can fall prey to. Last week's lesson focused on unanswered prayer, and the difficulty that happens when our hopes in God remain frustrated by a reality feels very different from what we want. Miller calls this dichotomy 'the desert.'

Miller describes it this way:

The hardest part of being in the desert is that there is no way out. You don't know when it will end. There is no relief in sight.

A desert can be almost anything. It can be a child who has gone astray, a difficult boss, or even your own sin or foolishness. Maybe you married your desert. . . . God takes everyone he loves through a desert. It is his cure for our wandering hearts, restlessly searching for a new Eden. . . . After a while you notice your real thirsts. (Psalm 63:1)

The desert becomes a window to the heart of God. He finally gets your attention because he's the only game in town. (pgs. 184-185)

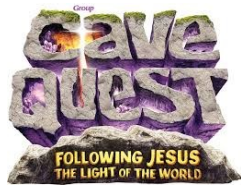
I have been intentional about talking with God through prayer for at least 35 years, but I still have a great deal to learn. I especially have a great deal to change in my *practical doing* of prayer, and I suspect that is true for many of us. I'm thrilled to recognize myself in some of the problems Miller describes, but I'm even more excited when I fill out a prayer card and see God answer something, or I regain a desire to pray for someone, because I've been reminded that the Lord is actually at work when I pray, not just on someone or something else, but on my *own* heart.

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Take a few minutes and ask yourself the following questions. *What is something God has shown me about Himself in the past month? In the past 6 months? What is something I have learned about myself that God is changing to be more like him in that period of time? What is a Bible chapter or verse that has affected by decision making in the past week? Is there someone I've reached out to in the past month that is in need?*

These questions, and others like them, give us a chance to evaluate where we are with God, and, perhaps, where we stand with others. (I have been asking us to reflect on these relationships as we prepare for communion in worship.) Friends, let's spur each other on to grow in our relationship with the living God: There's so much to be discovered!

Cordially,
Pastor Scott



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
JUNE 6TH—JUNE 10TH
9am—NOON

'CAVE QUEST' (Following Jesus—The
Light of the World)

*Gear up for an over-the-top
underground adventure!
Ground kids in the rock-solid foun-
dation of God's love,
a love that takes us through
life's dark times.*

IN NEED OF PRAYER?

**Members of the prayer team are available
in the library immediately following
worship each Sunday.**

*Please join us in the library and let us
pray with you. If you know of family
members or others in the community
who are in need of prayer, please
encourage them to join us on Sundays.*

**Prayer request cards are now available
in the blue pew pads.**

*If you have a written prayer request,
please fill out the card and drop it in
the offering plate or church office and
we will pray for you.*



PRAY!

The Newsletter is also
available online at our
website: cupepc.org

Weekly Meetings...

Monday 1:00pm **Bible Study** (will resume in September)

Wednesday Youth Small Groups 7:30pm

Youth Girls at the Manse & Youth Boys in the Youth Room

Second Wednesday 1:00pm **Game Day** (April 13)

Wednesday Morning Woman's Small Group 9:00am

3rd Thursday at noon **Lunch Bunch** (April 21 @ King's)

Friday Night Small Groups 6:00pm (@ The Hughes')

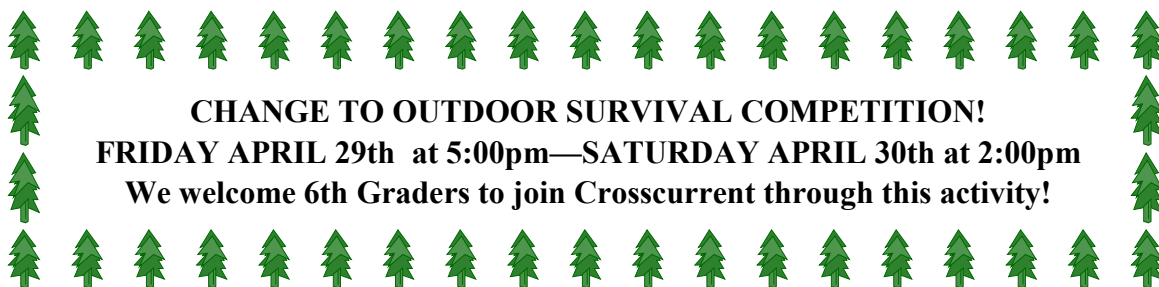
Saturday Morning Men's Group 7:30am (@ Eat 'n Park)



**FEAST FOR FINTONIA
MAY 22ND 6:00pm
BETHANY EPC in Mercer**

**Cost is \$10. for Dinner
Presentation following with Speakers**

**We are hoping to Sponsor at least 2 Tables for a total of \$80. per table.
A sign up sheet is available in the Entryway for each table. All proceeds to
benefit the ministry in Fintonia. The deadline is May 1st.**



**CHANGE TO OUTDOOR SURVIVAL COMPETITION!
FRIDAY APRIL 29th at 5:00pm—SATURDAY APRIL 30th at 2:00pm
We welcome 6th Graders to join Crosscurrent through this activity!**



**SHINE SUNDAYS
APRIL 10TH**

**SPRING MUSICAL
MAY 8TH—7pm**

'NOT YOUR AVERAGE JOE'
The classic Old Testament story of Joseph is retold in the exuberant times and music of the 50's. Its surfer beats, leather jackets, and surfboards, but the gospel truth remains the same...trust the Lord with all your heart.



APRIL Calendar

- APRIL 5** 7:30pm TRUSTEES
- APRIL 13** 1:00pm Game Day
- APRIL 16** 9:00am SHINE Rehearsal
- APRIL 19** 7:00pm SESSION
- APRIL 21** 12:00pm Noon Lunch Bunch
@ King's in Monaca
- APRIL 26** 7:00pm MISSION COMMITTEE
- APRIL 29** 5:00pm Survival Competition
through Saturday at 2:00pm

- Mondays** 1:00pm Bible Study (WILL RESUME IN SEPT.)
6:00pm College & Young Adult Study
@ Cline's (4/4, 18)
- Wednesdays** 9:00am Women's Small Group
3:30pm "SHINE" After School program
followed by Family Dinner @6pm
7:30pm Youth Small Group
- Thursdays** 7:00pm Choir Practice
- Fridays** 6:00pm Small Group Study @ Hughes'
- Saturdays** 7:30am Men's Group @ Eat 'n Park
- Sundays** 9am New Members Class
5:30pm Confirmation
7:00pm Crosscurrent

THE CHILDREN & YOUTH PAGE



This last month we had our second Shine Sunday (pictured) as well as wonderful Easter Celebrations at Cup Church! Shine Sunday featured the 3-5th graders on puppets and the 6-8th graders leading the praise band! We are getting ready for an exciting finish to our Spring and school year. Here are some big dates to write on your calendars:

For Youth:

Friday-Saturday, April 29-30: Outdoor Survival Competition

Friday-Sunday, May 20-22: Free Sample Retreat

Sunday, June 5: Youth Sunday and Confirmation

For Kids:

Sunday, April 10, Shine Sunday

Sunday, May 8 at 7pm: Shine Musical, "Not Your Average Joe"

Monday-Friday, 9am-Noon, June 6-10: VBS, "Cave Quest"

Matt Ulrich (*Director of Children and Youth Ministries*)

